

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**VIRGIN ISLANDS FIRES SERVICE
DIRECTOR NOMINEE FARRELL RESPONDS
TO FALSE ALLEGATIONS**

(July 27, 2015, St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands) This morning the Virgin Islands Fire Service held a general meeting on the island of St. Croix, several firefighters, union representatives and other concerned citizens met with Governor Kenneth E Mapp. The meeting was held at the Governor Juan F Luis Hospital Cardiac Center conference room. Governor Mapp listened to the concerns of the firefighters and addressed several issues relating to incentive pay, step increases, staffing needs and diversification.

During the meeting, there were reports that were made erroneously to various Senate offices and radio shows. These reports accused the VIFS of temporarily closing fire stations throughout the District of St. Croix. This is a false statement. VIFS hosts annual meetings to encompass the needs of all firefighters. During such meetings, response units and firefighters are present. In the event of a fire or the need for emergency response, the fire trucks (response units) and 1st response personnel respond directly from the meeting. Fire stations throughout the district were not "Closed". In fact firefighters responded to a brushfire and were dispatched directly from the meeting and the VIFS was successful in containing the fire.

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